

Viereck Saw Value Of Naziism to Reich

German Agent Says He Never Advocated National Socialism for United States

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Alert and tense in a neat blue suit, George Sylvester Viereck yesterday took the stand in his own defense for the first time since March last year, when he was first brought to trial on charges of violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The German agent fidgeted nervously as he asserted, in reply to questioning by Defense Counsel John J. Wilson, that he did not and never had advocated Nazi doctrines for this country. However, he went on, he recognized National Socialism's value to Germany, as a means of restoring her importance and "self respect."

As the defense opened its case before Justice Bolitha J. Laws and the jury of nine men and three women, Wilson pictured the defendant as a man of high American ideals in whose work as a German agent there was "nothing disloyal."

"Not at War"

"We were not at war," he declared, and the Muenchener Neuste Nachrichten for which Viereck was correspondent "was not a party organ." It was just a large paper, over which the German government exercised no more control than it did over any other newspaper in the country, he said. (Owner of the paper since 1935 is said to be Nazi Air Marshal Hermann Goering.)

Viereck's other activities—publishing anti-British and anti-war books, and working through American Congressmen to distribute millions of pieces of isolationist propaganda—were done purely on his own, according to his attorney. He, in common with "other loyal Americans" like Prescott Dennett and the late Senator Lundeen, was simply promoting a cause "dear to his heart—the cause of isolationism."

In its behalf, Wilson acknowl-

edged, Viereck invested thousands of dollars. But it was his own money, he stated. (Federal Prosecutors Albert E. Arent and George A. McNulty have produced testimony to show that Viereck sank \$22,500 in the Flanders Hall publishing company alone, with practically no return on his money. This firm put out thousands of anti-British and anti-Administration books with which the defendant allegedly circularized Congress and leading American citizens.)

"For Old Time's Sake"

The books he published may have been based on material put out by the German Foreign Office in Berlin, Wilson continued, but that was simply because Viereck "picked up" this material in the German Library of Information in New York, for which he worked. Since it contained the isolationist slant "so dear to his heart," Viereck used it.

This all-important "cause"—"he wanted to keep his country out of a bloody war"—led Viereck to seek out isolationist Congressmen, for whom he wrote speeches to be incorporated into the Congressional Record "in a spirit of friendship" and for "their common interest," Wilson maintained.

If he "passed on" the German Consul General's speeches, Viereck did it "for old time's sake," and not for money, the jury was informed.

"If you believe that there is free speech in this country . . . and if you believe that a man's money is his own after he has earned it, you must acquit the defendant of the charges," they were told.

Viereck's wife was called as the first defense witness. A slight, birdlike woman, she described their domestic setup in the Riverside Drive apartment in New York, recalling that her husband spent most of his evenings "hard at

work." Their two sons, Peter and George, jr., are in the service, "somewhere in Africa," she said.

The defense is expected to produce no other witnesses, it was learned, and will close its case with Viereck's testimony tomorrow. The jury will receive it either tomorrow evening or Thursday morning, after cross-examination of the defendant by Federal prosecutors Arent and McNulty.

A last bid for a directed verdict of not guilty was denied by Justice Laws yesterday morning, following claims by defense attorneys Rover and Wilson that the Government's case against the Nazi agent was "circumstantial" and unsubstantiated by the evidence.